CLAIMS:

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Apparatus for forming an article from a blank of sheet metal comprising:

a first die member having a cavity formed therein;

means for producing a magnetic field disposed adjacent the cavity in said die for restraining movement of the blank of sheet metal;

a second die member mounted for reciprocal movement toward and away from the cavity formed in said first die member;

means for imparting selective reciprocal movement of said second die member; and

control means for selectively energizing said means for producing a magnetic field to restrain movement of the blank of sheet metal during the reciprocal movement of said second die.

2. The invention defined in Claim 1 wherein said means for producing a magnetic field includes a plurality of electromagnets.

3. The invention defined in Claim 1 wherein said cavity includes an open end.

4. The invention defined in Claim 1 wherein said means for producing a magnetic field includes a plurality of electromagnets.

5. The invention defined in Claim 4 wherein said cavity includes an open end.

6. The invention defined in Claim 5 wherein said electromagnets are disposed in spaced relation about the open end of said cavity.

7. The invention defined in Claim 4 wherein said control means includes a microprocessor for controlling the strength of the magnetic field produced by said electromagnets.

8. The invention defined in Claim 7 wherein said control means includes a source of power coupled to said electromagnets through said microprocessor.

9. The invention defined in Claim 8 wherein said control means includes armature means cooperating with said electromagnets.

10. The invention defined in Claim 9 wherein said armature means includes a separate armature with each of said electromagnets.

11. Method for forming an article from a blank of sheet metal including the steps of:

providing a first die member having a cavity formed therein;

disposing a plurality of electromagnets spaced relation about the cavity in said die for restraining movement of the blank of sheet metal;

positioning a blank of sheet metal over the cavity of said first die member;

providing a second die member mounted for reciprocal movement toward and away from the cavity formed in said first die member;

providing means for imparting selective reciprocal movement of said second die member; and

selectively energizing said electromagnets to restrain movement of the blank of sheet metal during the reciprocal movement of said second die.